

Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Executive Council Minutes
May 12th 2011
The Plaza Wausau, Wi.

The meeting was called to order by Chr. Edgar Harvey at 3:02 P.M. Roll call of the Ex. Councilors was taken by Sec Richard Kirchmeyer. Those present were, Richard Kirchmeyer, Joe Weiss, Al Brown, Mike Riggle, Roger Sabota, Kevin Marquette, Arold Ninneman, Mark Noll, Marc Schultz, Stan Brownell, Dave Puhl, Dale Mass, Dave Miller, Edgar Harvey, Lee Farney, Mike Rogers, Ken Risley, Al Phelean, Al Shook, Robert Bohmann, Ann Marie Kutzke, and Jim Wrolsatad. Those excused were Dave Hraychuck and Richard Koerner.

There were no agenda repairs but was noted by Chair that we may need to adjust the agenda to the schedule of the guest speakers.

Agenda item 2a: Review votes of the state wide WCC spring hearing questions. Vice Chr. Bohmann gave this report. A MOTION WAS MADE BY Jim Wrolstad and a second by Al Shook to approve the report as given and forward all questions that passed the state wide hearing to be forwarded to the DNR for further action. MOTION CARRIED.

Agenda items 2b & 2c were delayed because Tony Blattler Chr. of the Rules and Resolutions committee had not arrived yet.

Agenda item 3a; DNR Fisheries rules hearing results. Kate Strom-Hiorns. All DNR questions except 2 are being forwarded to the NRB for adoption, questions 4 and 11 are the only questions not be advanced.

The following portions of the minutes reflect the explanations by the DNR for not forwarding question numbers 4 & 11 and also comments made by councilmen on the questions.

#1) Is being advanced with a few modifications. The DNR made 3 changes to the question since the spring hearings. 1) You must set hook immediately after a strike 2) Ability to use circle hooks, and 3) the minnow size was changed from 10 inches to 8 inches.

#4) Walleye, Sauger, Hybrid size limit/bag limit in 19 southern Wi. counties. DNR NOT ADVANCING. Statewide vote supported but local vote did not Noll; If the biologists at the all the county hearings would not have given out the information that they did, the vote could have been different state wide. Miller; Groups in my area did not support this proposal at all. Washington County has 2 put and take lakes already and they did not want those restrictions added to them also. Shook; commented that in Waukesha County, many people would have preferred slot limits not a reduced size limit.

Some councilmen did not have total confidence in the DNR recommendation because they stated they would not move forward with the proposal “at this time”.

#11) Re-establish closed area for setline fishing for catfish in Winnebago system. Not supported locally and will have no biological consequences if not implemented.

Questions # 26 & 27 were DNR advisory questions. Question # 26 is not being advanced by the DNR to the NRB at this time until more information is available from Minnesota. Question # 27 is also not being advanced to the NRB by the DNR mainly because this question was being asked to see if there was support to allow the DNR to have the ability to move the opener of the general fishing opener in some years to an earlier weekend.

Agenda item 3b: DNR wildlife spring hearing question results. Scott Loomans Rules Specialist, Bureau of wildlife management. All DNR questions are being forwarded to the NRB for adoption except questions 39 & 40.

Explanations by the DNR for not forwarding questions 39 & 40 and comments from the Ex. Council about the DNR’s spring hearing questions are as follows.

#39 Prohibit discharge of firearms on department lands in Pierce co.

#40 Prohibit discharge of firearms on department lands in St. Croix co.

Phelan commented on question #28 wondering why the date for implementation was 2012 not 2011. Loomans; As a precaution we thought it better to put 2012 instead of 2011 in case it had issues in the legislative review process, or the NRB and it might not be enough time to get it printed in the Big game regulations pamphlet.

Bohmann; The question dealing with using archery equipment during the gun deer season was supported has the DNR asked the legislature for support. Loomans: Not at this point in time.

Weiss: What is the DNR going to do with the information on the 2 NRB advisory questions (Bait/feed, Non-toxic shot)

Loomans; We do not anything on the agenda at this time but are going to use it for data when needed.

Agenda Item 3c. DNR LE Update. Randy Stark, Chief Warden. The biggest problem the LE division is having right now is staffing. There are 34 vacancies out of a possible 206 possible positions right now. We have been approved by the state budget to have between 12-15 recruits in our classes for the next 3 years. Right now there are more wardens eligible for retirement that we can have recruits in our classes. We now have 10 recruits available to be appointed for stations, one has already been stationed. Some areas that need wardens and have high probability of receiving one of the recruits are; Ladysmith, Amery, Appleton, Fondulac, Port Washington, Milwaukee, Black River, and Trempealeau. There will be 2 other recruits available in 10 months. During the 2010 gun deer season there were no fatalities. There were many cases reported and citations written in the past year dealing with thrill killing of game. UWGB is doing a study asking some of the thrill killers why they are doing or what triggered them to get into thrill killing. There is a growing problem in the woods with the increase of people growing marijuana

on public lands. Hunters must be aware of such sites if they come upon one because the people who are working these plantations are very protective of them. Harmony in the woods is an initiative being promoted by the Hmong community trying to get themselves informed about the laws and regulations of the state regarding to hunting and trying to relieve conflicts between different ethnic groups.

Questions and comments to Chief Warden Starks;

Mass: How is the reclassification of safety instructors going?

Starks; Some instructors are adjusting to the new ways of being certified, some are failing the written exam. At the present time the DNR has no one in charge of the safety programs.

Weiss: Has there been many problems with native spearing this spring?

Starks; One bad musky case but I can't give a lot of comment on it because it hasn't gone to court.

Agenda Item 2c: Rules & Resolutions com. recommendations. Tony Blattler Chr. Code of Procedure changes;

#1) Give a committee the ability to write their own question for the spring hearing.

#2) Give the ability for delegates to fill out personnel data questionnaires on line.

#3) Create a treasurer position.

Sabota: Is the treasurer position just a title and just adding a person to the Ex. Committee to help that committee out with it' problems of having illegal quorums or will it also handle money?

Chr. Harvey; We try to have a person from the Ex. Com. at all study com. meetings, adding this position would make it so each member of the Ex. Com. would have to attend fewer meetings.

Puhl; Presently there are only 3 on the Ex. Com. is there any problems making decisions now?

Chr. Harvey. The V. Chr. and Sec vote if they agree The Chr. does not vote so if they do not agree the Chr. breaks this tie.

Farney; The treasurer would have no work to do as far as dealing with money. Some people would like to know where the WCC budget is spent.

Schultz; The Friends of the WCC have the money we must keep the WCC and the Friends separate.

Zimmermann; No non-DNR person can deal with the budget or money that is with in our budget.

Schultz; Why do we need a treasurer and what purpose would it serve then?

Puhl; Would the treasurer position have the same powers as the rest of the Ex. Com.?

Chr. Harvey; Yes

Shook; Fewer obligations for the Chr.

Puhl; If the treasurer has no work to do we don't need another person on the Ex. Com.

Riggle; We have a treasurer now within the Friends of the WCC, we would have to change the signature authority possibly on the account every year in case the Treasurer was not reelected continually on the Ex. Com.

Kirchmeyer; This would add another expense to the budget of the WCC and this might not look good to the state when they are cutting positions to lower their budget and now we are adding a position.

Brown; We do need the position, right now the Chr. handles the money.

Puhl; Could the treasurer not be a member of the Ex. Com?

Chr. Harvey; What would the treasurer do then or purpose be?

Bohmann; It would allow 2 people of the Ex. Com to talk with out violating the open meetings law (majority of the Ex. Com. together at one time)

Schultz; Some outside people may look at the WCC and say because we have a treasurer we have money.

Maas; Maybe have an Ad-Hoc delegate and another person elected from the Ex. Council so there will be five on the Ex. Com.

Brown; Instead of adding a treasurer position maybe add a 1st Vice Chr. and 2nd Vice Chr. to the Ex. Com.

Chr. Harvey said he would like the council to make some decision on this issue so it can be presented to the delegates tomorrow.

Riggle; 1st vice Chr. and 2nd Vice Chr. sounds like a good idea.

Schultz; Can the COP be changed from the floor tomorrow?

Chr. Harvey; Yes.

Noll; If we do add the Treasurer position to the Ex. Com. does the Friends of the WCC have to approve.

Chr. Harvey; Yes they will have to amend their by laws to acknowledge the position.

Blattler; Commented that the R&R com. was told to look into what it would take to create the Treasurer position, what changes would needed to be made in the COP., he also noted that the com. knew the Ex. Com. was having problems violating the quorum issue in the open meetings law. The com. thought the Treasurer could give a financial report on where the WCC's budget is spent.

Chr. Hsarvey; Wanted to make it possible for 2 people from the Ex. Com to talk with out being in any violations of the open meetings law.

Andryk; Even if you add the one position to the Ex. Com. if 2 of the Ex. Com are seen talking you would still have what is called a negative quorum because those 2 could come to a decision and already have a majority, you really need to have 5 people on the Ex. Com. to alleviate the problem.

Kirchmeyer; Does the council have to come to a decision tonite to be able to present that recommendation to the delegation tomorrow?

Chr. Harvey; No

Mass; Do we have to approve this as presented or can we amend?

Chr. Harvey ; Yes.

Puhl; Could we have a treasurer and that person not be on the Ex. Com.

Chr. Harvey ; That position would not serve a purpose and would not help out the Ex. Com and their problem.

There was no recommendation on the Treasurer position from the Ex. Council.

Agenda item 2b; Rules and resolutions com. report. Tony Blattler Chr.

205 total resolutions submitted in 2011

94 shotgun resolutions

111 individual resolutions

1 resolution was rejected

Weiss questioned if the R&R com. forward any questions that did not have first local support.

Blattler; No.

Miller; We need to get more people attending the spring hearings maybe we need to go to on line voting. (You would have first have a DNR customer ID # to vote)

Noll; If we did have on line voting, how would you stop people from all over the country from voting on the spring hearing questions?

Miller; On line voting would allow Peta and others to vote.

Chr. Harvey announced that Sec Stepp will not be addressing the council tonight but will be present tomorrow.

Member Matters;

Risley; People with in the CWD zone do not agree with the DNR population estimates and would like to see the [public more involved in estimating the population.

Miller; None

Brown; Wolf study com. Chr. stated that there will be a hearing on wolves in Ashland on May 18th. The WWF supported the WCC for a population goal of 350 wolves maximum.

Noll; Concerned about that we no longer manage deer based on good sound biological science.

Riggle; 2 years ago the Big Game com asked for funds to be able to do deer research projects and he still thinks we should designate a portion o f each deer license be used for such.

Sabota; Heard many complaints that people still did not see any deer. Why if a DMU is way under goal one year can the DNR want to issue a ton of permits the next year, deer do not recover that fast in the north.

Chr. Harvey stated he testified before the NRB on this very issue and other problems people had with the recommendations the DNR has for the 2011 deer seasons.

Weiss; None

Wrolstad; None

Maas; People are not going to attend deer meetings if the DNR is not going to listen to their opinions on deer populations. They are real disgusted. Maybe we should go back to the way it was when we discussed deer quotas at the spring hearings. At district meetings Ex. Councilors should need to tell county Chrs. what to accept or not to accept as far as resolutions go whether they are in proper format or not. We need everyone to follow our COP. The Out reach com. is working on ways to educate or inform Chrs, V. Chrs., Co-Chr. and Sec. on duties and the COP and the consequences if they are not followed.

Shook; Has distributed many of the WCC brochures and there are a lot of people who do not know who or what the WCC does or is. He started he would like to see county resolutions read after the elections of county delegates. If we read these at the end of the hearing almost 1/3 of the people have already left. I we want people to be able to vote on these resolutions they should have some back round information from the author so they can make a good decision on the issue.

Bohmann; None

Rogers; Wants the deer to be managed by the DNR not the Legislators.

Farney ; Commented on the Youth Expo.

Ninneman; commented that people did not like the proposals the DNR had for antlerless permits and that the public is upset with the DNR and how they are pushing for more antlerless permits.

Marquette; None

Phelan; MADE A MOTION that the Ex. Council supports a request that the DNR change the year date on question #28 from 2012 to 2011. 2nd by Bohmann MOTION CARRIED.

Al stated that people who try to buy left over turkey permits on line are at a disadvantage because once they make their request they have to wait for their credit card to be approved, sometimes by that time all permits are sold out for that time period so when you try for another permit for another time period the computer will not allow you to do so because it says you already have purchased a permit.

Kutzke; She is no longer on the WCC

Schultz; Interested in changing the time when county resolutions are read he would prefer to read them between the DNR portion and the WCC portion. He is also worried about invasive species in the state or getting into the state.

Puhl; Would like to see the DNR and WCC portions of the hearings have the ability to be flip flopped from year to year.

Zimmermann; Stated that the DNR portion is a published hearing and must start on time.

Brownell; Commented that safety instructors are volunteers and has heard of no problems of testing out.

Kirchmeyer; Would like to see the local resolutions voted on between the DNR portion and WCC portion of the hearing. The Out reach com. is working and looking at ways to improve the WCC both from within and also its exposure to the citizens of the state.

Chr. Harvey; The Ex. Com. approved the purchase of a banner for the Wall of Fame and table skirts for the Wall of Fame. Chr. Harvey stated that he will not be rerunning for the Chairman's position and thanked the Ex. Council for all the work they have done while he was Chairman.

Motion to adjourn was made by Shook 2nd by Mass at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by;

Richard Kirchmeyer Sec. WCC

